

The Anti-Slavery Reporter

and

Aborigines' Friend.

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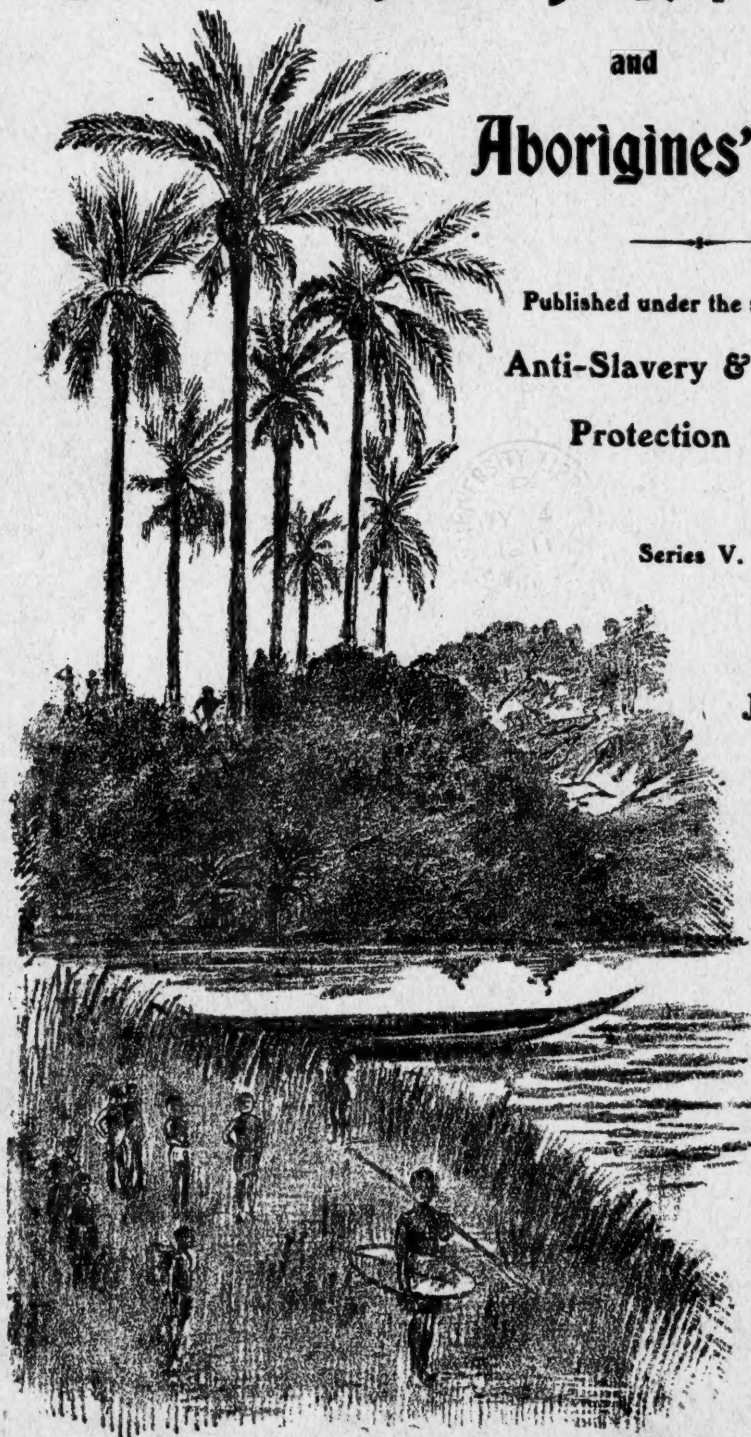


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Anti-Slavery Reporter and Aborigines' Friend.

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Quarterly Notes.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris' Journey. THE Committee has been kept in touch with the valuable work which our Organizing Secretaries have been doing at the places which they have visited in British West Africa by letters received from Mr. Harris from the Gold Coast, Lagos, etc. Mr. Harris wrote that, when once the home partings and the dreaded "Bay" were passed, he felt how wise it was for representatives of the Society to have gone out on such an errand as theirs. Those who know Mr. and Mrs. Harris will not be surprised to learn that, in spite of terrible heat, bad sea passages, some degree of ill-health, and other conditions of a very trying kind, they have accomplished an immense amount, both in the Gold Coast and at Lagos. We publish in this issue two of Mr. Harris' letters from the former Colony, where, we are glad to say, he was able to create an auxiliary of our Society. Both in the Gold Coast and at Lagos our representatives had interviews with the Governor or Acting-Governor, who afforded them valuable assistance, and in both they received a very warm welcome from the coloured people, who have expressed warm appreciation of the work and sympathy of our Society. The People's Union Committee of Lagos have given a practical token of this appreciation by sending a contribution of £25 to our funds. At Lagos Mr. and Mrs. Harris' time was fully occupied with deputations, interviews, and meetings of many sorts, and they have been gathering a host of facts. Mr. Harris has found time to send home a very valuable report upon the Native House Rule Ordinance in Southern Nigeria, and the "Jimmy Johnson" case. This is receiving the consideration of the Committee with a view to bringing the whole question before H. M. Government. The report will probably be published *in extenso* in pamphlet form. Mr. and Mrs. Harris hoped to reach the mouth of the Congo early in June.

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**Rubber
Companies
in Peru.**

We wish to call very special attention to the important reply given by Mr. McKinnon Wood in the House of Commons to Mr. Noel Buxton's question as to the Putumayo horrors, which will be found on another page. In view of the reports which our Society published last year of the cruel and atrocious methods employed by the agents of a British Company to induce the natives to work rubber in that remote region, the statement that the information given by our Society to the Government is "fully confirmed" means much. The reply speaks hopefully of the Peruvian Government's determination to suppress the cruelties, but it is fairly obvious that they cannot be trusted to carry it out without considerable pressure from this country. The Peruvian Amazon Company, too, which has been so grievously deceived, needs fully to understand that no reform can be held satisfactory without very substantial guarantees that the whole horrible system will be entirely changed and proper methods substituted.

Meanwhile our Society is in communication with the *Asociacion Pro-Indigena* as to the slavery and cruelty of which other British Companies in Peru are accused. It seems clear that the whole labour system of the country is little less than slavery. Native Indians are regarded as having no rights to their lands or other property, or even to their persons, and are regularly and inevitably robbed and ill-treated.

* * * *

Portuguese Slave Labour. THE Committee has had the advantage of a report from one of its members, who recently visited Lisbon, where he had interviews with the Colonial Minister and with members of the Portuguese Anti-Slavery Society. The facts about the "Cocoa Slavery" appear now to be much more widely known and admitted in Lisbon. The Colonial Minister affirms that there has been no further shipment of Angola labourers to the islands, and that their conveyance will not be resumed under the old conditions. We are glad to learn that the Portuguese Anti-Slavery Society has adversely criticised the Government's new decree as to the *serviçoes* in some particulars, and has made an important protest against the buying and selling of natives, direct or indirect, and against their corporal punishment and forcible detention. The Committee has been in communication with the Foreign Office, by whom we are again assured that His Majesty's Government attaches the greatest importance to the whole question. Further reports from the British Minister in Lisbon are hoped for.

The *Times* correspondent at Lisbon has referred to a significant report of Major Vieira, who was sent to Principe by the Provisional Government to appease political strife and investigate native labour conditions. This official reports that there are over 50,000 labourers who should have been

repatriated, and he is convinced that the slavery question will never be settled unless compulsory repatriation is strictly enforced, however great the loss to the plantation owners.

It will be seen from replies given to questions in the **Coolie Labour**. House of Commons that this important matter is being actively followed up.

Letters from the Rev. J. B. Harris from West Africa. GBANNAH LOUISY'S CASE.

THE GOLD COAST,

April 14th, 1911.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF

THE ANTI-SLAVERY AND ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN,—We visited on the 7th inst. the deported Sierra Leone chief, Gbannah Louisy, and have made the fullest enquiries into his case.

The Committee will recall the statement made in the *African Mail* that this chief had been deported from Sherboro without any trial whatsoever, that he had been in exile for something like eleven years, and was apparently in complete ignorance as to the cause of his deportation. All the information we have been able to gather goes to show that the *African Mail* was correctly informed in every particular.

We discovered Bai Sherboro—his chieftain's title—at Christiansborg, in a poor little room of a few feet square. He is a man of probably ninety years of age, with white hair and beard, and very feeble and decrepit. He had to be lifted outside and placed in position that we might secure his photograph.

We conversed with him for some time, and could discover no trace of disloyalty to the Crown and no bitterness whatever against the Government.

We were greatly impressed by his dignity of manner and the confidence and warmth with which he asserted his innocence of any crime. We asked him what he wished to say to the British Government and people, and his reply was: "Let me go home and die in my own country, and amongst my own people." In reply to the question as to whether he wished to take his place again as a chief, he replied: "No, I only want to live my last few moons in peace."

The Committee will remember that, acting upon the advice of the late Governor of Sierra Leone, the Secretary of State has recently declined to allow the old man to return, lest he should disturb the peace of the Colony. It would be difficult to conceive of this old man of ninety years, worn out

in exile, neither able to see nor walk, and barely to stand, being the cause of any appreciable degree of unrest.

We would urge the Committee to make another appeal to His Majesty's Government on behalf of Bai Sherboro. Probably the Press would give publicity to the case, and thereby assist in obtaining the release of this aged British subject as an act of clemency at the forthcoming Coronation.



GBANNAH LOUISY.

[Photo. by Mrs. Harris]

I cannot close this letter without referring to the position of the son of this chief. When the deportation took place in 1899 the lad was at school, but as soon as his education was finished he sold up the family possessions and came to live near his father, in order to mitigate the loneliness and hardships of exile. This young man, owing apparently to his nationality, cannot obtain any employment in the vicinity, and when his limited financial resources are exhausted he will thereby be forced to return to Sierra Leone. He has watched over his father for the last four years, and naturally, as time goes on, is feeling increasingly uneasy at the prospect of having to return to his people without his father.

I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN H. HARRIS.

COLOURED MEDICAL MEN IN THE GOLD COAST.

ACCRA,

GOLD COAST COLONY,

April 19th, 1911.

GENTLEMEN,—We have made inquiries into the position of coloured medical men in this colony, and the information we have gathered goes largely towards proving the reports you have already received.

No coloured doctor is at present in Government service, and, whilst there does not appear to be any ordinance expressly excluding these men, it seems to be common ground between the authorities and the native doctors that none can be admitted.

This disability is rendered more irritating to the native community on account of several Government doctors being permitted to engage in outside practice.

In one respect only the information forwarded to the Society would seem to be somewhat inaccurate. It had been stated that the doctors in Government service were permitted to use Government stores at a nominal price. This apparently is not so. The only advantage is that those in the service may purchase their drugs from the Government stores at cost price, and thus obtain them duty free, whereas a native practitioner does not enjoy this privilege.

The exclusion of coloured doctors from Government positions cannot be due to lack of qualification, for there are natives whose degrees are of a higher standard than those engaged in Government service.

We have reason to believe that so long ago as 1893 Lord Ripon sent a despatch to the Governor with instructions that the proportion of medical men in Government employ should be two-thirds white and one-third coloured. These instructions have never been carried out, and we suggest the advisability of ascertaining whether they have been withdrawn, and, if so, upon what grounds.

The natives, with whom I have discussed this question, naturally feel rather warm upon the subject. They point out the expenditure they have incurred in going to England and Scotland to obtain their education, they show qualifications they carry, and argue irresistibly that the employment of a greater proportion of native men would considerably reduce expenditure, owing to the fact that there would not be the frequent furloughs to England, which are so necessary in the case of white men.

The question of salary does not seem to be of paramount importance to them; they all seem willing to accept quite moderate remuneration, providing, of course, they are allowed to augment their incomes by engaging in private practice.

The point has been raised that white men and women would object to coloured medical attendants. If such a situation were likely to arise, the argument might have weight, but such circumstances are inconceivable in this colony.

At the same time, there is an abundance of work amongst soldiers, policemen, and Government employees, where the service of native medical men with command of native language and customs would seem to be invaluable.

We think the Committee should realise that unless the existing unsatisfactory conditions are changed, natives will refuse to spend large sums in preparing for a medical profession, and probably their activities will be devoted to spheres less useful, possibly even inimical to the welfare of the colony.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN H. HARRIS.

The first of these letters was sent by the Committee of the Society to the Colonial Office, with a request that the case of the deported chief might be reconsidered, and a report obtained from the Gold Coast with a view to extending clemency to Gbannah Louisy, and allowing him to return to Sierra Leone. To this the following reply has been received:—

DOWNING STREET,

May 15th, 1911.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th of May, on the subject of Gbanna Lewis (Bai Sherboro), who was deported to the Gold Coast in 1899.

While it may be true that Gbanna Lewis himself is no longer dangerous, the Colonial Government have strong reasons for believing that the object of certain persons in Sierra Leone, who are pressing for his return, is to make him a centre for disaffection towards the present paramount chief of Sherboro. Mr. Harcourt, therefore, feels that he would not be justified, in these circumstances, in agreeing to his return to Sierra Leone.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) G. V. FIDDES.

The Secretary, Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society.

This question is still receiving the attention of the Committee, who are making further inquiries into the case.

Slave Dealing in Angola.

THE facts stated in the article under this heading in our last issue were forwarded to the Foreign Office, which has received a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Loanda on the subject.

"Mr. Drummond Hay reports that he believes that there is a distinct improvement as regards the slave traffic in the colony, and that he is assured that the Governor-General is doing all he can to put an end to it, and is appointing District Governors and extra police in all parts of Angola."

The Consul has suggested to the missionary in Angola who gave information of his experiences of slave dealing to him, as well as to this Society, that he should report the matter again to the local *Chefe*, and inform the Consul if no steps were taken by that official.

The following frank account of the slave system in Angola, which appeared in the Portuguese newspaper, *Il Seculo*, is of especial value as coming entirely from Portuguese sources, and shows how unprejudiced men in that province regard the existing slave labour. The evidence is said to be that of a man well known for his warm heart and sympathetic attitude towards the negro. From time to time natives come from the interior to ask for his protection.

"When asked as to the state of things in Angola, this gentleman stated that nearly all the trade in Angola is connected with *serviçaes* (slave labourers), and this traffic, however disguised, is in reality slavery. There are two methods—exporting negroes to San Thomé and Príncipe, and exploiting them in Angola by a system of hiring them out. As large numbers are sent to San Thomé and Príncipe, there is a good trade in this. Since the proclamation of the Republic, however, the slavers have not sent any batches of negroes, and the new system has already exercised a salutary influence in this matter.

"Slavery in Angola itself is also being checked, particularly by the present Governor of Mossamedes, Senhor Carvalhal Henriques, who has met with no little opposition from the slavers by his independent and firm action. Mossamedes lives almost entirely by hiring out negroes. This is a shameful system, and almost all the districts in Angola adopt it. The master feeds them at a cost of about threepence a day, and hires them out for from fifteen pence to four shillings, according to circumstances. Visconde de Giraúl lets out many of his *serviçaes* to work on the railway.

"During the monarchy the Governors of the district shut their eyes to all these things, when they did not encourage them. But, above all, the Chiefs of the Municipality are responsible for the scandalous protection they give to persons who practise these abuses. It is rarely that a Chief has fulfilled his duties with the honesty that one expects from an official of a civilised nation. It is believed under the Republic that there will be more care in choosing these officials, and that these irregularities will not be repeated. There are various methods employed by slavers for getting slaves. There are persons in the interior, who, for from £2 10s. to £5, buy natives, and pass

them on to other dealers, till, by the time they reach the coast, the price may be a high one. Sometimes a dealer in slaves goes to a native and gives him a piece of merchandise, having taken care to put a particular mark upon it. The native goes away delighted, but a short time after is brought before his native Chief on the charge of theft. The native denies it, and the white man then shows the mark. The native is declared guilty, and is condemned to pay two or three slave boys, according to the value of the article that is supposed to have been stolen. There is another way, and that is not to complain of the theft of the article itself given or sold, but of an object that the white man has himself hidden in the article. The result is the same—the negro is condemned to pay two or three slaves, who are sometimes his nephews over whom he has power, or else slaves caught by himself in the forests. There is also another method, and this is very common. The white man who undertakes this trade puts some object in a conspicuous place, where it is seen by a passing negro, who cannot resist the temptation to take it. Directly this is done, the white man complains to the native Chief, and gets an indemnity of slaves, as well as the stolen object.

“All this is very bad, and must be done away with as soon as possible. Since the proclamation of the Republic something has been done, but not much. The evil can only be remedied by a good law regulating the work of servitors, and exactly determining the duties of masters and labourers. What has been said as to the unconquerable reluctance of the black man to work is not true. He has a reluctance to work when he is badly paid—when the black is well paid he works. There are many houses in Angola employing free labourers, and these work because they are regularly paid.”

Parliamentary.

INDIAN COOLIE LABOUR.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *April 3rd.*

Mr. WHITEHOUSE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the policy announced by the Governor of Jamaica, that the whole cost of the introduction and repatriation of Indian coolie labourers, should henceforth be borne by the planters employing them, would be extended to the other Crown Colonies into which coolies are imported?

In reply, Mr. HARCOURT said: My honourable friend will see on reference to the Report of the Committee on Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates (Command Paper 5,192) that the question of the cost of the introduction of indentured immigrants and its incidence on various sections of the community is by no means a simple one. The case of each Colony must be considered separately with due regard to local conditions, and in most cases I am satisfied that no sudden change is practicable. Subject to these qualifications, the policy indicated has my sympathy, but I am not prepared to pledge myself to any general or immediate action without consulting the Governments concerned.

May 11th.

Mr. WEDGWOOD asked the Colonial Secretary whether the Government had yet decided to put an end to the system whereby the coolie recruiting agents for the Crown Colonies were paid a commission per head upon the coolies they persuaded to sign the indentures?

Mr. HARCOURT replied that the question was one for the Secretary of State for India. The matter was receiving consideration, but no decision had yet been arrived at.

Mr. BYLES: Is it not a form of slavery?

Mr. HARCOURT: That hardly arises out of the question.

Mr. WEDGWOOD: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that his answer is precisely the same as that he gave last March?

Mr. HARCOURT: I am sure the hon. member would not wish me to vary my answers.

May 29th.

Mr. NOEL BUXTON asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware of the complaints made by indentured Indian coolies in Mauritius that they are recruited by misrepresentations and subjected to ill-treatment and hardships on the plantations; that, when brought before the magistrates, they are unable to obtain witnesses in their favour, as no one is willing to give evidence against the employers; that they are often refused admission to hospital when ill; and that their contracts are unfairly prolonged under a law passed since they were engaged; and, if so, what action he proposes to take in the matter.

Mr. HARCOURT: I have not received any representations on the subject, but if my honourable friend will inform me of any specific instance in which coolies have been recruited through misrepresentations, or ill-treated, I will make enquiry. The law to which my honourable friend refers provides that a labourer who is illegally absent from his work may have his contract prolonged by the number of days during which he has been so absent—but I am not aware of any unfair prolongation of contracts, nor that labourers are unable to obtain witnesses in their favour.

PUTUMAYO ATROCITIES CONFIRMED.

May 31st.

Mr. NOEL BUXTON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the report of Consul-General Casement, on the treatment of Indian labourers in the rubber plantations of the Putumayo Valley, has been considered by His Majesty's Government; whether he will state what action they propose to take upon it; and when the report will be published?

Mr. McKINNON WOOD: I have received the report of Consul-General Casement, which fully confirms the information received as to the ill-treatment of the natives. I am in communication with the Peruvian Government, who have expressed their determination to put an end to the present condition of affairs, and I am also in correspondence with the Company, who are considering plans of reform. In the meantime, the visit of Mr. Casement and of the Commission has greatly improved the condition of the Indians, and it is hoped that this improvement may last until the reforms have been introduced. Many of the chief criminals have fled the country, and the Peruvian Government are endeavouring to effect their capture, although the inaccessibility of the country and the long distances render this a difficult task. I cannot yet say whether the report will be published.

[Several newspapers have drawn attention to this very important statement. In a letter to the Press the Secretary pointed to the matter as affording a signal proof of the need for such a Society as the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, without which this story of cruel wrongs committed on a helpless native people would not have been pressed upon the attention of the Government, and measures taken to put an end to them. The *Daily News*, in the course of a leader on this subject, after remarking that they had been inclined to doubt whether the official enquiry, which was made last year, would establish facts terrible enough to justify the statements made by the Society, declares that the improvement which has already taken place since Sir Edward Grey took up the matter, and the promise of better things in the future, is one of the most creditable achievements in the record of the Society.]

Egypt and the Soudan.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

THIS is the official report of His Majesty's Agent and Consul-General for the year 1910. We need not touch on the Report relating to Egypt except to notice Sir E. Gorst's introductory remarks on his attempts, which he describes as "practical, but modest and not adventurous," to carry on the British policy of training the Egyptians to take a gradually increasing share in their own government. "The Egyptian Ministers and officials," he writes, "have been encouraged to take more responsibility and initiative in the affairs of the country, the existing institutions of the Legislative Council, and the General Assembly . . . have been granted an opportunity of making their voice heard in matters of importance, and the Provincial Councils have been developed and given powers which enable them to be a real factor in local government, especially as regards education."

* Egypt No. 1 (1911)

While the first and third of these changes have been attended with some success, it has been otherwise with the Legislative Council and the General Assembly, which have shown "a steadily increasing tendency to become mere instruments of the Nationalist agitation against the occupation," opposing and thwarting Anglo-Egyptian officials, the Council of Ministers and their British advisers. The cause of the failure, in Sir E. Gorst's view, is that the policy has been taken to be a mark of weakness, and the Egyptians must, he thinks, be made to understand that "H.M. Government do not intend to allow themselves to be hustled into going further or faster in the direction of self-government than they consider to be in the interests of the people as a whole." He describes the political situation as healthier to-day than it has been for several years, and there is reason for thinking that the atmosphere has cleared in the Legislative Council and that a more reasonable spirit is beginning to prevail.

Sir Eldon lays stress on the necessity for maintaining and developing sympathetic relations between the British authorities and the Egyptians, if the great enterprise, undertaken over a quarter of a century ago, is to be ultimately realised.

THE SOUDAN.

In forwarding his report to the Foreign Office on the Soudan, Sir Eldon Gorst expresses the view that the record of the Soudan Government in 1910 compares very favourably with that of previous years, and affords abundant hope that the country is entering on a stage when even more rapid moral and material progress may be looked for, so long as it remains under the present *régime*. Sir Reginald Wingate, the Governor-General, speaks of the year as marking an important stage in Soudan development, and mentions as the principal feature the further progress of the railway south of Khartoum, which now extends across the White Nile to Kosti, whence the line is to be pushed on in the course of this year towards El-Obeid in Kordofan, and, it is hoped, will reach that town early in 1912. When that event takes place, an increase in the revenue of the Kordofan province is expected. The commercial and strategic importance of this improvement in communications is, we are told, already apparent, and part of the line—connecting the Gezira province with the coast and Khartoum—has already financially justified its existence. The future railways policy is said to be one requiring the careful consideration of the Government.

The chief political event of the year has been the transfer to the Mongalla province of the Lado Enclave, a tract of 17,000 square miles, which, in accordance with the Agreement of 1906, reverted to the Egyptian-Soudan Government at the death of King Leopold. The population of the province is thereby doubled, and a large additional military expenditure, in order to take over the northern portion effectively, is necessitated. The year is described as "one of progress and promise."

Armed force has, however, had to be employed on several occasions to uphold the Government authority or assist the civil power.

Under the heading of "Frontier Affairs" we are informed that the situation on the Abyssinian frontier has not shown the improvement anticipated.

"Again this year a series of incursions by Abyssinian bands into Soudan territory, chiefly for the purpose of obtaining slaves, have been reported, three alone taking place between July and September into the Sennar province. These fresh instances of lawlessness have been brought to the notice of the Abyssinian Government, and representations have been made as to the necessity of taking immediate steps to punish the offenders and release the prisoners."

Under the heading of "Darfour," reference is made to the murder of Lieutenant Boyd Alexander, and it is stated that the occupation of Wadai by the French forces in 1909 has naturally brought up the question as to the boundary line between Wadai and Darfour. The state of the country has precluded any attempt to undertake its delimitation, but it is hoped that Sir R. von Slatin's negotiations on behalf of the Soudan Government with Ali Dinar's envoys will result in a mutual understanding as to the respective limits of Wadai and what in 1882 constituted the province of Darfour.

The following paragraph relates to a subject on which our Society has been in communication with the French Anti-Slavery Society as well as with the Foreign Office. A reference will be found to it below, under the heading of the Soudan-Tripoli Slave Trade.

"The establishment of a post under a French officer near the boundary of the Soudan, mentioned in last year's Report, enabled the Inspector of the Western District of the Bahr-el-Ghazal, Captain Stoney, to meet the French representative of N'dele in June last, with a view to concerting measures for the more effective suppression of the small amount of slave-trading that still goes on across the frontier. A thorough agreement has been arrived at, and a system of issuing passes to travelling parties of merchants and pilgrims, giving details of their identity, similar to that in vogue in the Soudan, is being adopted in the French Congo.

"Two new Government posts on the frontier, each under the command of an officer, are also being established by the French authorities."

A short section of the Report deals with the specific subject of slavery. The Government sent confidential information to the Society in November last of the decision to place the Slave Trade Department directly under the control of the Soudan Government instead of that of Egypt, for the reasons mentioned below. The headquarters of the Department were moved from Cairo to Khartoum as long ago as 1901.

SLAVERY.

"A review of the past year's work again shows that the measures adopted by the Government are resulting in the successful repression of the

traffic in slaves. The posts and patrols of the Slave Trade Department make the probability of the detection of offenders very great, and the penalty inflicted is severe.

"A great deal of patrolling has been done in Kordofan. The post formed at Nahud in 1909 has been maintained, as also those at Geili, Goz Regeb, and Shereik, of which latter the Governor of Berber reports that it is a most effective check to kidnapping in that district. In the Red Sea province regular patrols have been carried out, and a careful watch is kept on pilgrims passing between the Soudan and Arabia to prevent the smuggling of slaves and kidnapped children. Permanent posts have been kept up at several spots, both on the east and west banks of the Blue Nile, and the roads from Roseires have been systematically patrolled.

"Captain A. M. McMurdo, hitherto Director of the Slave Trade Department, under whose energetic direction so much good work has been done in the last sixteen years towards the repression of slavery, has retired from the service, and it has been decided to take this opportunity to transfer the Department to the Soudan Government.

"As I had the honour to report in recommending this proposal in November last, the new system will be a distinct improvement on the former arrangement, by which the headquarters of the Department were maintained at Khartoum, though the Department itself was not placed directly under the control of the Soudan Government, but continued to be attached to the Ministry of the Interior in Cairo. This system was not very practical, involving as it did a division of labour between the Department and the Soudan Government and a certain amount of overlapping and friction.

"The new arrangement will conduce not only to economy but also to considerably greater efficiency, as, instead of a comparatively small force being employed upon the work, there will in future be available for the purpose the whole administrative organisation of the Soudan, whose composition affords greater guarantees than have hitherto been obtainable that the battle, which is being waged with continually increasing success against this nefarious traffic, will be prosecuted with the utmost vigour."

ARMS TRAFFIC.

The increase in the traffic in firearms is said to be a serious menace to the extension of civilising influences, and a wish is expressed that the International Arms Conference of last year could have secured the absolute prohibition of the import of arms for trade purposes *via* the coast of Tripoli. Arms are brought into the Soudan mainly from the Abyssinian frontier, and the authorities of that country seem powerless to check the sale on their side. It is hoped that the Slave Trade Department may be able to some extent to look out for gun-running on the long line of frontier.

The Soudan-Tripoli Slave Trade.

FOR some time past our Society has been in correspondence with the Anti-Slavery Society of France regarding this trade both in the interior of the Soudan and in the Tripoli district, and we have had the advantage of much valuable information from its distinguished Secretary, Monsieur le Baron du Teil (who, it will be remembered, is a corresponding member of our own Society). Monsieur du Teil informed us early in this year of the understanding which had been arrived at in June, 1910, between the British and French officers at their respective frontier posts in the Soudan, of which we received official intimation from the Foreign Office a few weeks later. The official and un-official accounts, however, differ somewhat as to the amount of slave trading which goes on in the Anglo-Egyptian territory of Darfour. According to statements which have been made in the French Parliament, slave raiders frequently come across the frontier from Darfour into the French sphere of Wadai and carry off the inhabitants into slavery. Further, Monsieur du Teil informs us that an enquiry into the *provenance* of the liberated children, who have been received into the Institute at Benghazi in Tripoli, establishes that, while most of them have been brought from Wadai, Baghirmi, and other places in French territory, a proportion, which is estimated at nearly one-third of the whole number, is drawn from the Anglo-Egyptian sphere, which would seem to show that the traffic is still existent in Darfour.

But, according to the reports from the Governor-General of the Soudan, forwarded to the Foreign Office by Sir Eldon Gorst, it is only slave-trading of a petty kind which still exists on the Egyptian and French frontiers. This is carried on by Gallabas, and it is considered almost impossible effectually to stop it altogether owing to the vastness of the uninhabited area; but the Soudan Government's system of administrative posts throughout the country is believed to have practically put a stop to the former extensive traffic in slaves by pilgrims travelling to and from the Hedjaz. It is highly satisfactory to know that these meetings between the officials of the two countries have taken place. Sir R. Wingate, Governor-General of the Soudan, is confident that they will hasten the achievement of what is the common object in view of their respective Governments, and hopes that such meetings will occur frequently in future.

The French Anti-Slavery Society is of opinion that the movement of pan-Islamism in the whole northern portion of Africa is of so threatening a character as to call for energetic repression from Great Britain and France, and that vigorous action should be taken to ensure the complete disappearance of slavery; to this end they have urged that the boundaries of Wadai and Darfour should be definitely delimited. It will be seen from the British official reports that this has not been thought feasible as yet; but measures have been taken to avoid frontier disturbances and prevent the insurgents in French territory from taking refuge in Darfour.

TRIPOLI.

In regard to the slave trade at the northern end, viz., in the Province of Tripoli, the Society received the satisfactory intelligence from the Foreign Office in the earlier part of the year that the British Consul-General at Tripoli had been instructed not to permit the Turkish authorities to impose Ottoman nationality upon persons who may have been brought to Tripoli as slaves from any British territory in Africa. This is a point of great importance which the Anti-Slavery Societies have been urging upon their respective Governments since the Rome Congress of 1907, as it was well known that the imposition of Turkish nationality upon the slaves freed in Tripoli rendered their freedom almost nugatory and their return to their homes impossible.

The French Society has conveyed to us the congratulations of its President and Secretary in very cordial terms. After pointing out that the French Government has taken measures which have prepared the way for a satisfactory treatment of the question, our colleague, M. le Baron du Teil, wrote that our Society would have the honour of having been able to turn the favourable circumstances to account, and our Government, by being the first to come to a decision, "has certainly rendered an immense service to the anti-slavery cause."

The Italian Anti-Slavery Society has also written in very kind terms, telling us that all the agents and correspondents of that Society in Tripoli have received with enthusiasm the measure adopted by the British Government, and all hope that France will soon do likewise.

In the current number of the French Anti-Slavery Society's journal, *L'Afrique Libre*, we find a letter from the Governor-General of French Equatorial Africa in reply to a request from that Society as to the repatriation of slaves freed in Tripoli who are proved to have been brought from French territory in the interior. M. Merlin wrote last September that he had decided to receive the suggestion favourably, and that the Government would, under certain specified conditions, undertake the cost of repatriating these natives of the French Soudan. Great prudence and care would have to be employed in every case, but the Governor-General hoped that it would be found possible for his administration to give effective support to the aims of the Society.

Slave Trade Papers.*

WE have received from Brussels the annual volume of papers and statistics relating to the slave trade, freed slaves, and the traffic in arms and liquor, which is published and circulated in conformity with the terms of the Brussels Act.

* Documents relatifs à la Répression de la Traite des Esclaves. Bruxelles, 1911

The Report of the Zanzibar International Maritime Bureau states that during the year 1910 there has been no reported case of any contravention of the laws against the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa, and no important communication has been made to the Bureau, whose labours have been limited to the registration of native vessels, in accordance with Article 41 of the Brussels Act. The authorisation demanded by the British Consul-General in 1909, that vessels believed to be engaged in the slave trade should be subjected to the right of visit up to the 30th of November last, has not been renewed, but the report adds that the native shipping still needs the strictest supervision, both on the part of the land authorities and the war-ships, as was proved by the recrudescence of slavery during the year 1909.

PERSIA.

An account of the slave-trading in Persian territory was given in these papers three years ago, and another report of some length from the provincial Director of Customs, dated last year, on the slave trade in the South of Persia, appears in this book.

Slave dealing is said still to go on in the province of Kerman and in Bayban, a district of the Persian Gulf, from which latter district especially, a great number of slaves are supplied. The trade is carried on by lawless characters, who lay waste these regions, and seize the children of the poor inhabitants in order to sell them, and also by certain chiefs who exercise authority in regions remote from the Capital. Some of the slaves are exported to the Arabian coasts, others are taken into the towns in the interior, Bam, Kerman, etc. The slaves destined for the interior are bought by dealers who are in league with the officials, from whom they procure their living merchandise, buying them in exchange for arms or produce, or in discharge of debts.

The slaves who have been definitely bought are taken in caravans to their destinations, while the rest are sent to chiefs who have previously made offers of purchase. Those who are exported to Arabia are taken without any difficulty in sailing ships containing only three or four at a time, which cannot be distinguished from other vessels, and are there sold.

It is interesting to learn that on the coast of Mekran, of which we have heard lately in connection with gun-running which is carried on to supply Afghan and Baluch traders with arms smuggled from Muscat, an active slave trade is also conducted by native dealers, who make a lucrative living out of it. They are practically money-lenders, demanding a high rate of interest, and at the end of the year, when their creditors are unable to pay them, they claim their slaves at a low price and make an enormous profit upon them, selling for one or two hundred tomans people whom they have bought for twenty or forty tomans.

Export trade is also actively carried on, but is not so lucrative as that

of the interior. It is estimated that 1,000 persons (700 for the interior and 300 for exportation) are annually reduced to slavery, and these come for the most part from the Mekran coasts, which supply more than half the annual number of slaves. Slaves in Persia become so in two ways: by being born in servitude or by loss of liberty through destitution, brigandage and other causes; the latter class almost all come from Mekran and Beloochistan. The inhabitants of these countries are at the mercy of their chiefs, who treat them very harshly and force them to dispose of their children to meet the demands made upon them. Sometimes parents will voluntarily surrender their children to dealers in exchange for rice and other provisions, as well as for money. Children are seized from their parents by hordes of bandits, who make raids upon the people. Slaves are also obtained as the result of tribal fights. In the interior of Persia the lot of the slave varies according to the social position of their owners. In Beloochistan, where the chiefs are generally poor, slaves are badly clothed and fed, and readily pass from one master to another. In other districts, where the owners are in better circumstances, the treatment of the slaves and their conditions of living are better. Those who are exported to the Arabian coasts are treated with inhumanity. After the expiration of the pearling season they are employed as sailors, or as coolies, or in other laborious occupations, without any pay, their wages accruing to the dealers to whom they belong. Of the women, some are employed as water carriers, or as domestic servants; others are taken as wives or concubines by their owners.

The price of slaves varies according to the age and sex of the victims, a young man of from 15 to 25 fetching from 40 to 70 tomans, while a young girl from 6 to 18 may realize a sum of between 100 to 200 tomans.

THE GOLD COAST.

An extract from a report of the Gold Coast Protectorate, Northern Territories, in 1909, states that murder, manslaughter, robbery with violence, kidnapping of children, and slave-dealing, which used to be prevalent, have decreased considerably in the last few years. Natives who feared to visit the market for fear of being captured as slaves can now trade freely, and travel unarmed in parts of the Protectorate where formerly only large parties fully armed dared venture. Inter-tribal raids and family feuds, and looting of caravans and traders have now almost ceased. The social and general condition of the Protectorate improves steadily year by year, especially since 1907, when the present civil system superseded the former semi-military administration. The Commissioners have been able to come into closer touch with the natives.

THE CONGO.

A number of reports and decrees of last year are published relating to native chiefs and native taxation in the Congo State. It is laid down that payments are henceforth to be made in cash in those districts which are

open to trade. For this purpose coin has already been sent into the Congo to the amount of four millions of francs, besides the money introduced into the colony by individuals and private societies. Money is said to be actually current in the whole of the Lower Congo, in the Kwango, the Kasai, and in Uele. The decree for payment of taxes in money instead of in kind was to come into force on the 1st July, 1910, in about half of the colony, and successively in other districts on the 1st July in 1911 and 1912.

The Slave Trade and Slavery in Morocco.

REPORT FROM MR. DONALD MACKENZIE.

THE following important report has been addressed to the Committee of the Society by Mr. Donald Mackenzie, as a result of his recent visit to Morocco, and a copy has been submitted to Sir Edward Grey. Mr. Mackenzie's book on Morocco, entitled *The Khalifate of the West*, was reviewed in the last issue of the *Reporter*.

"I left England on the 24th March last and arrived in Tangier on the 30th. The object of my visit was to make inquiries into the slave question, the condition of the prisons and prisoners, and also the *Protégé* system, and



THE SLAVE MARKET, MOROCCO CITY.

[Photo. by Mr. Alan Lennox.]

other matters regarding the general condition of Morocco. I am glad to say at the outset of this report that I have received, during my enquiry, every assistance from the British Government officials and from missionaries, especially in Southern Morocco, and also from merchants who take an interest in the future of Morocco. I may here remark that one of the old missionaries, Mr. Badger, of Saffi, informed me that when I presented the memorial from your Society for the abolition of slavery in 1887, it caused quite a commotion amongst the Moors. They thought that the abolition of slavery had come. When Sir Wm. Kirby Green died so suddenly afterwards, they considered it a judgment of God on him for interfering with an institution which they considered belongs to the Mohammedan faith. Sir William had actually succeeded in obtaining a verbal promise from the Sultan for the abolition of all open slave markets in the interior, which was a step towards abolition of slavery. In this report I shall only deal with the slave question, which especially interests your Society. I made careful enquiry regarding the slave trade and slavery at every point, and I find that no effectual check has been placed on this unholy traffic. Slaves are continually required for domestic and other purposes; even Europeans are said to hire them as servants, and while the demand continues the supply will come. Many people are engaged in this trade; there is even evidence that European *protégés* are engaged in this business. I do not mean by that that English *protégés* are concerned in this; I found so far no evidence of it. There is no open sale of slaves in the port towns, thanks to the efforts of the Anti-Slavery Society, but the private sale of slaves is going on continually in all the port towns. The British Vice-Consul at Mogador informed me that he saw, not long ago, a woman being hawked about for sale in the open streets of Mogador. While I was staying in Morocco city, I visited the slave market with Mr. Nairn, the head of the South African Mission. We found a large number of buyers. The stock of human flesh for sale consisted of quite twenty-four quite young black girls. One was about eighteen years old, but the others were about thirteen years. There was one man for sale. They all came from the Soudan, as we made particular enquiries as to their origin. Two hundred and twenty dollars were offered for the oldest girl, and I think she was sold for that sum or a little more. One hundred and twenty dollars were offered for each of the other girls, but I did not stay to see the result. We went round and counted the number of slaves present, and asked questions of the dealers. It was a sickening sight to see those poor young things, with their sad faces, being marched up and down the market place, offered for sale like animals, and that within a few yards of a British Vice-Consul, who represents an anti-slavery nation. I thought, as I looked at the poor defenceless slaves, what harrowing scenes they must have witnessed when they were being captured in the slave hunting ground

of the interior of Africa, for the purpose of supplying the demand of the slave dealers of Morocco. There is a considerable trade in Morocco City and other towns in Morocco in white slave girls. In some cases I understand, that the supply comes from Sous and other parts where white slave girls can be found. It often happens that, when the Sultan subdues a tribe, the men are killed or taken prisoners, and the women are sold as slaves. A French *protégé* was recently engaged in this traffic in Morocco City, selling them privately, contrary, so I understand, to the Moorish custom in that city. He was sent to prison by the Moorish Governor. The French Consul asked his release, which the



THE SLAVE MARKET, MOROCCO CITY.

[Photo, by Mr. Alan Lennox.

Governor declined, and pointed out to him at the same time that the Christians asked them to abolish slavery in Morocco, and here, said the Governor, one of your own *protégés* is concerned in it. This was unanswerable, so the French *protégé* slave dealer still remains in prison. When on my way from Mogador to Tangier, I met a scene on board the S.S. 'Penshurst,' belonging to the Power Company of London, which astonished me. The captain drew my attention to a young dark slave girl. She was being taken to Tangier, evidently for a customer. She might have been eighteen years old, not more. She was in good condition,

but she was crying all the time, and looked very sad. I told the captain he ought to take some action in the matter, but he could not tell his powers. The poor girl was accompanied by a man who was clearly a slave dealer. As we looked at the poor weeping slave girl several times, the slave dealer became somewhat nervous, and was most anxious to reach Tangier. She was a very pleasant girl. My heart grieved for her and her fate, and only wished that it was in my power to set her free, but from what I could gather, this is by no means an isolated case. Indeed, this captain and others told me that slaves have been on board British ships with their chains on, but the captain said that in such cases he would order, and has ordered, their chains to be taken off while on board. This system of carrying slaves from port to port in Morocco looks like slave running, which ought to cease as far as British ships are concerned. I have no doubt that the vessels of other nations are made use of in the same way by the Moorish slave dealers. In order to put an end to this abominable system, I would suggest that an order should be issued to all British captains who sail to Morocco, in case some are ignorant as to the state of the law on the subject, that on no account should a black woman be taken on board any steamer as passenger, unless accompanied by a certificate from the British Consular Agent, stating that she is not a slave, but a free woman. This could with advantage be extended to certain native white women. I have made a careful calculation of the slave trade in Morocco, which I discussed with Mr. Johnston, British Vice-Consul at Mogador. Taking the slave trade of Morocco City as a basis, when Mr. Nairn and myself went to the slave market of that city there were twenty-five black slaves for sale, and there were certainly plenty of buyers. The market is held twice a week. So it may be taken that forty slaves a week are dealt with, without counting the private sales, which cannot be less than ten a week. This makes fifty slaves a week, or 2,600 a year changing hands in Morocco City, and I am of opinion that not less than 10,000 slaves are bought and sold in the whole country in the course of a year. Add to that number thirty per 100 to cover the mortality of capture, and the march across the desert, say altogether 13,000 slaves. This trade will unfortunately continue until a treaty is made with Morocco for its total abolition, but I think, as a beginning, that your Society should insist that the slave markets should be closed wherever a British Consular officer is present, as is the case in Fez and Morocco City. It seems to me very improper that slaves should be publicly sold before the shadow of a British Consulate. It looks as if we tolerated this traffic. I hope your Society will do all in its power to remove this dark spot of slavery and slave trading from Moorish dominions."

(Signed) DONALD MACKENZIE.

May 24th, 1911.

Native Lands and Crown Colonies.

By JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD, M.P.

"With their present reckless bartering away of their rights in their ancestral lands by the alluring offers of fat options, the natives do not seem to realise when and where to put a stop to the dangers they are unconsciously courting for their posterity. What provision have they made to reserve lands for their own working and profit, or those of their children's children? . . . Are we going to suffer ourselves to be reduced to the miserable status of the proletariat for exploitation purposes by foreign settlers to enrich themselves and make us a landless people in the land of our birth?"

THE above extract from the *Gold Coast Leader* brings again to the front a question which ought to be of the utmost importance to the Anti-Slavery Society. It is of little use taking credit for the abolition of chattel slavery if, with our eyes open, we allow economic slavery to take the place of the old worn-out form of compulsory labour. There is a "slavery" which locks up men's bodies; and there is a "freedom" which indeed sets men's bodies free but locks up all they need for subsistence. It is not to this sort of freedom that we ought to condemn the black citizens of the Empire, or to which we ought to allow them to condemn their children.

The process of alienation of natives' lands to white company promoters—and to educated civilised natives—which is making such strides in the Gold Coast Colony at the present time, is one that is going on, and has been going on for years, in nearly all our Crown Colonies, and indeed wherever white and black come into contact. Umbandine sold Swaziland to the whites, sold it many times over; if we and Khama managed to preserve the Bechuanas, and if Moshesh and Sir Godfrey Lagden did the same for the Basutos, yet the Chartered Company now own the land of Matabele; just as another Chartered Company hold the land of North Borneo in trust for their shareholders; and just as another, but for expensive wars, would have owned the whole of Northern Nigeria. The very vastness of these Chartered Companies may cause them to strike the attention of the public most, but the acquisition of native lands by individuals or syndicates is every bit as inimical to the economic freedom of the natives, and far more prevalent and uncontrolled. It is taking place now with yearly accelerated speed in most of our Crown Colonies—in Uganda and East Africa, in Nyassaland and Lagos, in the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone; you can see it the whole way from the Federated Malay States to the wilds of British Guiana. "To whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, to him belong the fruits of it. White parasols and elephants mad with pride, these are the flowers of a grant of land." This is still as true a saying as when the old Indian Rajah embodied it in his land grant a thousand years ago.

The intimate connection between slavery and the native land question could not be shown more clearly than it has been by Sir Percy Girouard. He writes:—

"My predecessor in Northern Nigeria (Sir Frederick Lugard), referring to the difficulty of obtaining free labour (after the abolition of slavery), mentions the necessity of the 'creation of a labouring class to till the lands of the ruling classes,' and 'the enforcement of proprietary rights in land' as the solution. I can only presume that this meant the creation of a landlord class. I am not at all certain that it would be in the natives' interest to create a landlord class."

And in two years he took effective steps to prevent the possibility of a landlord class, black or white, ever arising in Northern Nigeria.

Observe that the difficulty of obtaining labour came from the abolition of slavery; that, as long as the natives could work for themselves on free lands, wage labour was scarce and costly; and lastly, that Sir F. Lugard clearly saw that the way to get over the "difficulty" of scarcity of labour was by depriving the natives of free land. It would hardly be fair to say that he *advocated* this way out of the difficulty; indeed, all his actions show he was entirely opposed to the solution, but with a certain cynicism he pointed out the way for those who might wish to introduce European "civilisation" into darkest Africa. His successor slammed the door in the face of "civilisation." One wonders how long it will remain shut.

There are two principal methods by which natives are deprived of their free lands and forced to work for wages. The older method, and the one still employed so successfully on the Gold Coast, and with some modifications in Sierra Leone, is to assume that a native chief is already in the same economic position as an English squire, possessing a right to charge rent and to lease or alienate land. This conception of a native chief is, of course, a European gloss based on the civilisation known to the European. "There is no individual in Northern Nigeria who can say, according to native law and custom, this piece of land belongs to me." So said, in 1907, Mr. Temple, now Acting Governor of Northern Nigeria, and no one who has studied the question can doubt that what he said applied, and still applies, to by far the greater part of our Crown Colonies.

But for the purpose, if it be our purpose, of getting cheap labour—for the achievement, if it be an achievement, of the future exploitation of the natives—the land *must* be got into private hands. We, therefore, assume that the native chiefs are landlords, and allow them to lease and sell their followers' lands in return for—a case of whisky or bundle of striped blankets it was in the old time—now, in these more respectable days they get paid in debenture shares. What happens then? The native population notice at first no appreciable change. Then comes the polite request to help in the labour on the estate; the native may work or

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go. It may be easy to go at first, and the work will be correspondingly light. To go elsewhere will be more difficult later on, when "proprietary rights in land" are universal, and then the work will no longer be light for the landless man.

This first method of creating landlordism is, however, somewhat crude and out of date. So long as a hundred years ago the Bengal Settlement converted native chiefs into semi-landlords; and in no other colony at the present time, save the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, so far as I am aware, is the native chief imagined to be a real landlord. It is, however, proving so convenient a method latterly on the Gold Coast, that it may be revived, in the interests of Lombard Street, and be found hereafter in Southern Nigeria also.

By far the most usual modern method of depriving natives of their lands and of solving the labour "difficulty" is the nationalisation and sale method, which we owe to the more ordered and bureaucratic mind of the German and Belgian colonial administrator. This method works as follows: the uncultivated, or at least the unoccupied, lands of all our newer Crown colonies are assumed to be Crown lands, or lands held for the benefit of the public—in some of the "public's" many manifestations. So it is, in varying degrees and forms, in the Federated Malay States and Seychelles, in Uganda and Nigeria, in Trinidad, British Guiana and Honduras, in Burma and British East Africa, probably even in the Soudan. The land is held, as it were, in trust, but the object of the trust, and the manner in which that trust is exercised, differ by all the degrees that separate the two poles, from the working hell of the Congo to the idle paradise of Northern Nigeria. May I say, in parenthesis, that far more wealth is produced in the Congo "Free" State than in Northern Nigeria; the people there work very hard indeed; and if you want people to work hard and produce a great deal of wealth the Congo system is the best yet invented.

The land, then, in most of our Crown Colonies is held in trust. Perhaps it is held in trust for the people of England, or for shareholders; perhaps it is in trust for the white settlers, present and future; perhaps for the natives. But, whatever the theory of the trust, in practice it is more usually held without any definite policy at all, save and except the all-pervading and dominant idea that the "development" and "civilization" of the Colony must be the first object of the Governor, and that the undoubted way to produce that "civilization" is to sell to all comers "proprietary rights in land." The natives may have no land, but they will have trousers. Also there will rise a leisured class who will settle in the Colony and endow scientific and charitable institutions. Such arguments have hitherto been generally considered conclusive.

Can we change this policy? Can we make the trust one of which

Englishmen should be proud, make it a trust for the natives and their descendants, or rather a trust for present and future inhabitants of the Colony?

There are indications which make it seem possible. The preamble of the Land and Native Rights Proclamation (Northern Nigeria) 1911, opens with the words:—

“Whereas it is expedient that the existing customary rights of the natives of Northern Nigeria to use and enjoy the land of the Protectorate and the natural fruits thereof . . . should be assured, protected, and preserved.”

And the Ordinance goes on to enact that the State shall only grant the right of user of the land, at rents revisable every seven years at most, and based solely on the value of the land; that the tenant shall have absolute ownership, free of rent and tax, of the improvements upon the land. There are no Customs duties or indirect taxes of any kind, but as population increases and the unoccupied land comes up to the margin of cultivation, so rent—the Single Tax—will increase and provide for the common wants of the inhabitants. These will be mostly natives, for the country is too hot for white labour, and the absence of any chance of privately acquiring land value, or of getting natives to work at low wages, will certainly discourage the settlement of those who desire these privileges.

This defining and enacting of the British conception of trusteeship in Northern Nigeria must be admitted to be largely accidental. A series of happy accidents has given power there to a Lugard, a Girouard, or a Temple. Circumstances, as widely differing as the discovery of an analogous German Ordinance in the Cameroons, the close study by Captain Orr of the old Hausa civilisation, and the new English Budget of 1909-10, have all played their part; and in no other part of the British Dominions beyond the seas do we see as yet anything to approach it for completeness or breadth of view.* Nowhere else is there such a breakaway from the old traditions of development and exploitation. I am told that the Governors of both the Gold Coast and Southern Nigeria are personally attracted by the Northern Nigerian system, but every month that passes sees in these Colonies more native lands converted into private property; vested interests grow and make ever more difficult the adoption of a comprehensive scheme. Meanwhile the Colonial Office itself has a not unnatural reluctance to make any change in what is, and a conservative tendency to resent being made to consider new-fangled theories of government which have no relation to such practical things as cotton-growing and Lancashire.

But something is being done elsewhere than in Nigeria, and this something can be strengthened. The trusteeship idea is growing, or perhaps

* It is possible that the Burmese land settlement, about which I am not well-informed, may, in agricultural areas, embody the same principles on less conscious and complete lines.

changing, though the abstract question of for whom they are to be the trustees has not yet troubled the Colonial Office. They have grasped the idea that it is an intelligent public opinion which objects to these Colonial Crown Lands being sold away in perpetuity. For instance, it is the London Chamber of Commerce, inspired by Sir Albert Spicer, M.P., which has urged that the Colonial Office should not allow land to be alienated in perpetuity, but that the fee simple should be retained as security for the money advanced to the Colony by the English taxpayer. Here the idea obviously is that of trusteeship, and, if the money is wisely spent, a trusteeship not necessarily antagonistic to the natives; the chief security is retained in the hands of the trustees. The practice of the German Colonial Office seems to be moving on to the same lines, if we may judge from their land laws in the Cameroons and Kiao-Chow. Even recent legislation in our own self-governing Colonies is helping to emphasise in the minds of our Colonial Office the idea that the land is a trust.

Unfortunately, whereas in the case of Northern Nigeria the man on the spot, that powerful person, was always ahead of Colonial Office opinion in this matter, elsewhere the reverse is the case. The educated man on the spot—white or black coast lawyer—is generally anxious to see as quickly as possible the creation of proprietary rights in land, and all the consequent development and exploitation which he calls civilisation; the landless proletariat of the future trouble him very little. In fighting him the Colonial Office have an uphill task. That is all the more reason why a society working against slavery and for the uneducated helpless native should be active on the other side.

So far the Colonial Office have taken definite steps in British East Africa and the Federated Malay States only; and in the latter case the rush to get rich quickly in rubber and tin is crushing nearly out of recognition the economic purity of the Government's intentions. In Uganda, too, there is found now a healthy desire to avoid any more large concessions of freehold in land; but a mixture of local pressure, patronage, and the desire to show a growing export of cotton in the Annual Report will always shake a Governor's good principles, even in Uganda, so long as no clear Ordinance stands in the way.

What they have done in British East Africa is to confine the freeholds they sell to settlers to a maximum of 320 acres. If more is wanted it can only be got on a 99 years' lease. And, in addition to this, there is a sort of land values tax levied on freeholds. In the Federated Malay States both land and minerals are only leased for 99 years, and at both 33 and 66 years a revision of rent takes place. There seems, however, to be many exceptions to this regulation, for no less than 167,000 acres of Crown lands were sold in perpetuity in the year 1909.

The question therefore is, "Can we extend this new policy; establish

and extend it? That land in the Crown Colonies is a trust for the people of those colonies. That, firstly therefore, no native chief has a proprietary right in land, but that the Crown holds the land in trust for the people; and, secondly, that, holding this land in trust, the Crown has no right to sell it, but may only lease on such terms as shall secure to the tenant the full value of his improvements, and give him security of tenure subject to a revisable rent determined by the general demand for land.

The writer has moved for a Return showing the extent of the Crown lands in the various Crown Colonies and the system under which they are being alienated at present. When the Return is published we shall see large areas of native or Crown lands in all Colonies, and a different practice of alienation in each. It should be our business to focus public attention on one point, and to convince Governors and Colonial Office on that one point, namely, that those lands are held simply and solely in trust for the inhabitants, and must not be alienated from them to either blacks or whites.

This way alone lies real freedom for the native; freedom to work for himself; freedom from wage slavery; freedom from the hopeless state of a landless exploited proletariat. I am curious to know what the answer will be from members of an Anti-Slavery Society, and how far their answer applies to England also.

Northern Nigeria.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

THE last Annual Report of this Protectorate (published in April) states that the year 1909 was, like its predecessor, a peaceful one, and was marked by steady administrative progress and increasing content on the part of the people. Sir Hesketh Bell, the Governor, states that life and property, except in a few remote districts, are now as safe in Northern Nigeria as in any other of our African Protectorates.

The policy of ruling through the native Emirs, and enlisting their active co-operation, has been continued, maintaining as far as possible the channels for conducting official business to which the natives have been for a century accustomed. Many of the native rulers are, the Governor says, showing progressive tendencies, and the native courts are increasingly gaining the confidence of the people. That the Protectorate is benefiting under the Administration, and that the people enjoy the freedom granted to them, is said to be very apparent. The general appearance of native well-being is most noticeable—increased areas are being brought under cultivation, and there is a marked increase in the revenue, "collected without difficulty or friction."

*Cd. 5467-10.

A few "punitive patrols" have been necessary, but there is said to have been but little fighting. The purpose of these patrols appears to have been to punish the natives for raiding, and murdering police and other officials.

The railway from Baro to Kano reached Zaria in January last, and was expected to reach Kano in July; it is likely to prove by far the cheapest line ever constructed in tropical Africa. It is believed that the railway will greatly increase the amount of trade with the natives, who will find it to their advantage to develop the latent resources of their country.

The Government has controlled about 8,000,000 people, and kept the peace over more than 250,000 square miles, at a cost of little more than £500,000 a year.

While many of the native rulers are believed to appreciate British policy and methods, Sir Hesketh Bell points out in an interesting paragraph:—

"It must never be forgotten that we are 'protecting' a people in spite of themselves, and that almost every improvement and development initiated by us is absolutely opposed to all their instincts and traditions. Though we have relieved the Hausa peasant from the grinding tyranny of his Fulani oppressor, and have freed the primitive pagan from the fear of a ruthless slave-master, it should be remembered that we are imposing on all these people a monotony of existence that stifles their spirit of adventure, and that we are forcing on them a wearisome sense of security that is taking all the sport and variety out of their lives. The emotional nature of the negro and the fanaticism of the Moslem may flare up at any moment, and that steady progress towards civilization and enlightenment upon which we are priding ourselves to-day may suddenly receive a check which, though only temporary, might retard for many years the steady progress of the country."

The slave traffic is carefully watched, and local slave dealing may be said to be practically non-existent. The number of slaves registered as freed since the beginning of 1900, when the Protectorate was established, is given as 7,199.

FREED SLAVES' HOME.

The Freed Slaves' Home was transferred in August from Zungeru to the Lucy Memorial Home at Rumasha, an institution founded by the Sudan United Mission, and subsidised by Government. We notice that the inmates at the transference only numbered 164 as against 183 and 236 in previous years.

From a more recent account issued by the Mission, we learn that there are 55 boys and 118 girls in this Home. The boys are employed at farm and garden work, while the girls are trained in domestic economy. Teaching in the three R's and in the Bible is given in the afternoon to all. The children are healthy and contented, and respond to the care bestowed upon them.

The Congo Situation.

News of the conditions on the Congo has been scanty of late, and somewhat conflicting. Some missionaries have reported improvement in the districts which have been opened to trade, as a result of the introduction of payment in money instead of in kind and the reduction of taxation. A serious report, of the old, bad kind, however, has been published from Mr. D. C. Davies, a Baptist missionary, who has been travelling in the region of the Aruwimi and Lulu Rivers, off the beaten track, which has not been, and will not be, opened to trade. Mr. Davies wrote that he had returned to Africa full of hope that the reforms promised by Belgium would be immediately and genuinely carried out.

"Owing chiefly to the substitution of money instead of labour as the tax along the banks of the main river generally, the condition of the natives in that region seems to have improved somewhat already. But now, in penetrating the hinterland, only a few days' march from the great Congo River, imagine our keen and bitter disappointment to find the old *régime*, so universally denounced and discredited, still in operation. There were hundreds of natives paying their tax to the State in rubber, and leading a hopeless and miserable existence. . . . In town after town visited by us we observed the striking absence of all able-bodied men and youths, the unmistakable signs of servile dread among the few old men, chiefs and women who remained, and the touching sight of large numbers of desolate and fleglected homes falling to ruins. With painful reiteration we were informed of how they were obliged to forsake their towns and people . . . to live a life of hazardous toil in the gloomy depths of the inhospitable forest; how that at the express command of the white men they had to stay in the rubber camps for two consecutive months, and, in some cases, even three."

Here they have to live in "miserable temporary shelters made of sticks and leaves," while their well-built homes are neglected and abandoned. In some cases in the districts which these missionaries visited the legal labour period of forty hours a month actually works out at six, and in some cases eight months, of compulsory toil in the year, and for the remaining time they are by no means certain to be free to attend to their own affairs.

This is the third letter received by the Baptist Missionary Society within a few months, from different missionaries, reporting cruelty and forced labour in the Congo.

It is well to know that the Government, in reply to questions in Parliament, have repeated their refusal to recognise Belgian annexation of the Congo until they have positive evidence that the state of things is satisfactory; but some further action of a less negative kind than was indicated by Lord Morley's speech in the House of Lords on May 1st seems urgently called for. Lord Mayo asked why no Consular Reports

had been published since 1909, and the Primate backed up his appeal for more information as to what was going on. The Government plead that they are waiting until they get evidence from the larger portion of the territory now opened up. Lord Morley expressed the conviction that in consequence of the Decree of March, 1910, the old system of exploitation is undoubtedly passing away, and that there has been an unquestionable improvement. The Government propose to publish both reports of the Consuls now on tour together as soon as they are received, as well as others recently arrived.

In his opening speech Lord Mayo referred to Mr. Harris' journey of investigation, and pertinently asked why it should have been necessary to send Mr. Harris out when we had consular representatives in the State; if such reports had been received they ought to be published.

The Lennox Island Indians.

AN article appeared in our January issue regarding the purchase by the Aborigines Protection Society in 1870-1871 of a Reserve of about 1,300 acres for the benefit of the Micmac Indians; the title was vested in trustees of the Society. A communication has since been received from the Department of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, asking that the title should be transferred to H.M. the King, as represented by the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs, in trust for the Indians, thus making the title the same as that of the other Indian Reserves in the Dominion of Canada.

The following facts regarding the condition of the Indians of the province of King Edward Island are of interest:—

"Only Indians are allowed to reside on the two Reserves, one at Lennox Island and the other at Morell, the Indian population now being 272. . . . The position calls for the careful oversight of the affairs of the Indians mentioned, and for the general furthering of their interests. It may be remarked that the principal pursuits of the Indians of this superintendency are farming and fishing. There is an Indian School at Lennox Island, and the pupils are reported to be making fair progress. The school teacher is an Indian, John J. Sark, son of the ex-Chief Sark. . . . I may also state that the Government contemplates erecting two substantial wharves, one on Lennox Island and one on the mainland, for the use of the Indians. The Indians above mentioned are, in common with all other Indians throughout the Dominion of Canada, under the protection of the Dominion Government, and their affairs are administered for them by the Department of Indian Affairs, under the provisions of the Indian Act, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. These facts are stated to inform you that the welfare of the Indians of Prince Edward Island is receiving the attention of Government, and it is thought that the permanent title to their Reserve should be vested in the Crown."

This proposal has been considered by the Society's Committee, and on the proposal of Dr. Thos. Hodgkin (one of the two surviving trustees of those named in 1871) it was resolved that the title should be transferred as requested.



EX-CHIEF JOHN SARK.

Another letter has been received this year from Father McDonald, of Prince Edward Island, giving an interesting description of the Indians, for whom the reserve on the islands was purchased by the Aborigines Protection Society forty years ago. Several photographs were also sent of

these people, two of which are here reproduced. The letter, of which the greater part follows, was addressed to the Secretary of the Society.

"GRAND RIVER LOT 14, P. E. ISLAND,

"*March 21st, 1911.*

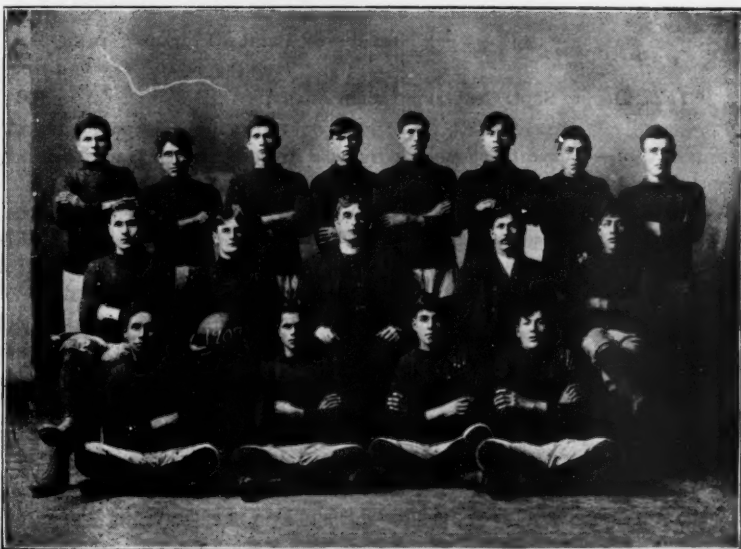
DEAR SIR,— I had the article 'An Investment of 40 Years Ago,' published in the local press, and I am of the opinion that it is owing to it that the Department of Indian Affairs at Ottawa wished to have the title to the Island vested in the Crown. I received your second letter the other day. I am sending under separate cover a few photographs which may be of interest to you. One is the Micmac Indian Football Fifteen; while your Society is of a religious and philanthropic nature, no true Englishman fails to be interested in sport. This team has Urban Gillis, their trainer, who plays with them, and my own photo and that of the present chief Bernard. All play except me and the chief, and all are Micmac Indians except me and Gillis.

" The Indian is naturally a runner. The men are slim and lithe and are possessed of almost incredible endurance. They never get stout. The females (they don't like to be called squaws) are more inclined to be stout, and that may be caused by their more sedentary habits. They do not come into contact so much with the whites and are therefore not so advanced as the men. The photo will give you a good idea of the fine type of manhood on Lennox Island. . . .

" I send also the photo of ex-chief John Sark. Among the decorations of the chiefs are two medals of silver—one given by one of the King Georges, and the other given by Louis XIV. of France.

"The Micmacs belong to the Algonquin race of Indians, and occupied the territory east of the Mississippi (Mesgig Sibo, great river). The Micmacs, or Souriquois, lived in the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and P. E. Island, also the Gaspé peninsula of Quebec, as well as Newfoundland. When the French first came to Port Royal, the Micmac Indians numbered about 4,000. They are the only aboriginal tribe of America which has held its own, and they are just the same number to-day. Consumption has taken a terrible toll from their numbers, but then again they marry young and have large families. They are now better instructed with regard to the precautions necessary for the prevention of the white plague. They now number 292 on P. E. Island, *i.e.*, 242 on Lennox and 68 in other parts of the province, notably on the Government reserve at Morell. Though they all have houses on Lennox, they love to go along the line of railway and live in camps where they can procure material for basket-making and other Indian wares. . . . The Indians are rather intelligent—even Michael Thomas has not got all his brains in his feet, for he receives two daily newspapers and is fond of reading. His mother's father was the Indian schoolmaster who signed the address to Governor Robinson 40 years ago. I am sending you some clippings from the Blue Books of the Indian Department at Ottawa. You will see the large amount paid in salaries and the comparatively small amount that filters through to the Indians. . . . They have beautiful soft voices and sing the four bar church music. Now they are getting able to take up the five bar, and they have an organist of their own.

I am trying to look out for some one to present them with a couple of hundred dollars to purchase a small set of band instruments, as they could learn quickly, and I could teach them myself. There is a catechism, prayerbook, and history in their own language. They also have a newspaper printed once a month and only four small pages. The Scriptures were translated by a Baptist Missionary, the Rev. Mr. Rand, but it is according to the phonetic English method, and the Indians, even before they had regularly established schools, used the French method taught them by the first French missionaries. I use the Bible of the Rev. Mr. Rand when I read the Scriptures in their language, but I have to change it a good deal to make it intelligible to the people; whether the Micmacs of P. E. I. had an altogether different dialect or not, or whether the genius of the language changed since, I do not know.



LENNOX ISLAND INDIAN FOOTBALL TEAM.

Middle Row, 1 (on left), JOHN J. SARK, Teacher; Centre, FATHER McDONALD.

They formerly had a system of hieroglyphics, either invented or perfected by Father LeClerc of Gaspé in 1745. They do not use it now, but it is a literary curiosity. . . .

"Now I think I have written a lot of nonsense, and feel sorry that as I have just got into touch with you, that you are about throwing us overboard and washing your hands clear of us.

"Now here is something else I am going to add. The land on the Island of Lennox is not all good. A considerable part of it is swampy and some is white sand and gravel. One feature of it may yet prove valuable. The Canadian Geologist, Dawson, examined the land, and stated there was a

considerable deposit of peat, which may be useful for fuel when all the wood is cleared away. I saw them burning such fuel when I was in the Western Hebrides a few years ago, and the same in Ireland. There will be no need of manufacturing it, but it can be used as it is in Daliburgh. Perhaps one reason why the Indian Department at Ottawa wished to get full control of the island is that the natives sold a great deal of rough lumber of it this winter, and the Department felt themselves unable to prevent them from denuding the forest portion of the island. . . . Now I will stop at last.

"Yours respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN A. McDONALD."

Extracts follow from the Official Reports (a) of Prince Edward Island, (b) of the Lennox Island School:—

"PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

"MICMACS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

"HIGGINS ROAD, May 6, 1910.

"To the Deputy Supt. General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

"SIR,—I have the honour to transmit my annual report and statistica statement for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1910.

"RESERVES.—There are two reserves in this superintendency, viz.: Lennox Island Reserve and the Morell Reserve. The former is an island in Richmond Bay; it contains 1,320 acres. The latter is situated on lot or township 39, in King's County; it contains 204 acres of excellent land.

"POPULATION.—The population of this superintendency, comprising both reserves and other localities in Prince Edward Island, is 292. There has been a natural increase of 8 during the year, for there were 13 births and only 5 deaths.

"OCCUPATIONS.—The principal pursuits of the Indians residing on the reserves are farming, fishing, and the manufacture of Indian wares.

"BUILDINGS.—The public buildings are very good. Their dwellings are all frame buildings, and are comfortable and kept in good repair.

"HEALTH AND SANITATION.—The health of these Indians has been fairly good during the year. However, a good many were sick during the winter. The school-house and a few private houses were fumigated a few weeks ago.

"CHARACTERISTICS AND PROGRESS.—These Indians are fairly industrious and law-abiding, and seem to be making a more comfortable living than formerly.

"TEMPERANCE AND MORALITY.—The Indians residing on the Lennox Island reserve, with very few exceptions, are sober. The great majority of them do not even take intoxicating drinks. They are a religious and moral community.

"RELIGION.—All the Indians of this superintendency are Roman Catholics.

"I have, &c.,

"JOHN O. ARSENAULT,

"Indian Superintendent."

"LENNOX ISLAND SCHOOL.

Number of children of school age	...	...	...	43
Number of pupils enrolled	...	...	...	42
Average attendance	...	...	...	18

"It is especially gratifying to report on the progress of this school, as it is presided over by an Indian, himself educated by the department, Mr. John J. Sark, a son of the ex-chief of the Lennox Island band. Mr. Sark was first educated at the day school, and afterwards attended St. Dunstan's College. He has a third-class certificate, and is in hopes of again attending college and obtaining a second-class certificate. The poverty of the Indians operates to prevent the children from coming to school in the winter, but this is obviated as much as possible by the issue of footgear and clothing. All the Indians on the reserve speak English."

Australian Aborigines.

PUBLIC opinion in Australia appears to be awakening to the urgent need of measures for protecting the aboriginals. The Government of Western Australia, which has had a far from favourable record in this respect, has recently purchased cattle-stations of 850,000 acres, with cattle and horses, at a cost of £20,000, for native reserves. The labour of the natives there collected is expected to render the reserve self-supporting.

Some terrible accounts of crimes perpetrated on the natives in North-West Australia, in the Northern territory of South Australia and North Queensland, have lately been published by Mr. W. M. Burton, who lived there for four years.

A Conference of the Anglican Church was held at Sydney a few months ago, when it was resolved to petition the Government to institute as soon as possible a Department and a special Minister of Native Affairs; further, that, before existing Crown lands in the Northern Territory were leased or alienated, reserves should be mapped out, sufficient to allow for an increase in the native race, and that money should be provided for stocking and developing the reserves.

An Anglican deputation made representations at the same time to the Commonwealth Government at Melbourne as to the treatment of the aboriginals in the North-West Territory.

The Commonwealth Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Batchelor, expressed full sympathy with the objects of the deputation, observing that the treatment of the natives formed the blackest page in the history of Australia. He announced that a Federal Protector of Aborigines would be appointed, who has already been sent to the Northern Territory, recently taken over by the Commonwealth. The Government would establish native reserves, and three medical officers were to be appointed. Mr. Fisher, the Prime Minister, has also given satisfactory assurances.

From recent correspondence with Sydney, we are glad to learn that at the Anglican Conference, held there in February last, resolutions were passed in favour of forming an Association for the care of native races within or near the borders of Australasia—this term to have a wide interpretation. We are hopeful that it may prove possible for an Auxiliary of our Society to be started for that Continent.

Abolition in Pemba.

THE following extract is taken from a letter written by Mr. Joseph Taylor, who visited the island of Pemba last year as representative of the Friends' Anti-Slavery Committee, and published in *The British Friend*.

"The island is about the size of a small English county, some forty miles long by, say, twelve broad. . . . The population, of a little over 83,000, is almost all Mohammedan, divided into three classes, Arabs (who are the aristocracy), Swahili, and Indians from Gujerat (who are the shopkeepers). There are very few Hindus, and some families have moved away. The island is a dependency of Zanzibar, and its cloves contribute very materially to the revenue of the state. At present it is being administered by English officials. The damp, equable climate, with a temperature of a little over 80 degrees, has proved very prejudicial to the health of Europeans, who have suffered a great deal from malaria hitherto; and consequently have to take frequent furloughs.

"The decree of emancipation, as finally promulgated one-and-a-half years ago, seems to be now generally understood and administered. But the need for assisting the former slave population by example and precept in industrial education remains. Some few families of those originally helped have now begun to settle for themselves on their own purchased land. Each small settlement of this kind becomes a possible centre from which Christian truth may radiate. In addition to the work on the Mission clove plantation at Banani, where experiments in the growth of rubber, vanilla, etc., are also being carried on under C. E. Morland and J. E. Bowes, there is an active industrial and educational work in progress at Chake-Chake, the principal town of the island. In addition to medical and other work, Emily Hutchinson has about a dozen girls in her boarding school, situated in a large adapted Arab house on the main street. Across the road, F. and M. Roylance have about twenty boys in the boarding school, and a busy carpenter's shop, where the older young men and boys are engaged."

The League of Honour.

A CONFERENCE of this League, which was initiated by Archdeacon Beresford Potter last year, was held in one of the offices of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, lent for that purpose, on the

30th May last, when there was a good attendance. The object of the League is to educate the electorate to interest themselves in great moral questions connected with the foreign policy of the country. Sir T. F. Buxton took the chair at the opening, and subsequently gave place to Mr. G. P. Gooch. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., representing the Balkan Committee; Mr. H. W. Nevinnson, on the question of San Thomé labour; and Mr. Polak as representing the Indian South African Committee. Colonel J. A. Wyllie also spoke in defence of the Portuguese planters. Mr. E. D. Morel was, unfortunately, at the last moment, unable to speak on the Congo question. Archdeacon Beresford Potter emphasised the power of the British electorate, who must be trained towards ideals of honour on these great questions. If, he said, we could get only two or three men in each district convinced in their souls that politics must be based on ethics, what a vast change would be introduced into the Empire and the world!

An Advisory Council was subsequently formed to guide and push forward the work.

Dutch Reformed Churches Union Bill.

THE Committee of the Society has had under consideration Clause 10 of this Bill, which was recently debated and passed in both Houses of the Union Parliament of South Africa, whereby the coloured members of the Dutch Reformed Church in Cape Colony are specifically excluded from the United Church in any other province. Several members of Parliament who have interested themselves in the question have been communicated with, but, unfortunately, as Mr. Harcourt had made it clear in Parliament that, whatever views he might hold on the matter, it was one within the competence of the Union Legislature, and therefore he could not interfere, and, further, that the Bill was not one which would be specially reserved for the Royal Assent, no room for any useful action was left to the Society, except to forward a resolution of protest to the Colonial Office and to the Minister of Native Affairs for the Union.

The clause, is, of course, a result of the introduction of the colour bar which formed so dark a blot on the Union of South Africa Act in 1909. The only encouraging feature in this regrettable matter was the strong expression of opinion against the clause in the debates of the Union Parliament, notably in the speeches of Mr. Merriman and Mr. Schreiner.

The terms of the resolution were as follows:—

“The Committee of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society desires to record its strong protest against Clause 10 of the Dutch Reformed Churches Union Bill, as affirmed in the Union Parliament of South Africa on the 15th of February last, by which coloured members of the Dutch Reformed

Church in Cape Colony are debarred by legislative enactment from claiming membership of the United Church in any of the adjacent provinces of South Africa. The Committee deeply deplores that this introduction of the colour bar into religious matters should be sanctioned by statute, regarding it as a serious infringement of the fundamental principle of the British Empire that no distinction of persons or disqualification of race or colour should be recognized by the State."

Review.

"BARBAROUS MEXICO."*

By JOHN KENNETH TURNER.

WE drew attention last year to Mr. Turner's articles under this title in *The American Magazine*, which have now been re-published, and largely added to in the book before us. The outstanding features of those articles were the accounts of the hideous slavery of the henequen plantations of Yucatan and the tobacco plantations of the Valle Nacional, and the report of the wholesale expropriation of the Yaqui Indians from their home in the North-West for deportation to Yucatan, a report since confirmed in a despatch to the Foreign Office from the British Minister in Mexico, which was communicated to our Society last year. Here is Mr. Turner's summary of the treatment of the Yaquis in Yucatan:—

"They are sent to the henequen plantations as slaves, slaves on almost exactly the same basis as are the hundred thousand Mayas whom I found on the plantations. They are held as chattels, they are bought and sold, they receive no wages, but are fed on beans, *tortillas*, and putrid fish. They are beaten, sometimes beaten to death. They are worked from dawn until night in the hot sun beside the Mayas. The men are locked up at night; the women are required to marry Chinamen or Mayas. They are hunted when they run away, and are brought back by the police if they reach a settlement. Families, broken up in Sonora or on the way, are never permitted to re-unite. After they once pass into the hands of the planter the Government cares no more for them, takes no more account of them. The Government has received its money, and the fate of the Yaquis is in the hands of the planter." (Page 50.)

But it is not only in Yucatan and the Valle Nacional that slave labour is found; debt and contract slavery are the prevailing system of production, varying in details, but alike in its main features, all over the south of Mexico, the slaves being not only natives of the districts, but brought there by labour agents, or by political authorities, acting through labour agents. Throughout Mexico, Mr. Turner states, the peonage system regulates relations between the employers and employed in the rural districts, affect-

* Cassell & Co.

ing probably five millions of people, or 80 per cent. of the farm and plantation labourers in the country.

The character of this peonage does not seem to be seriously denied, even by those who cried out against Mr. Turner's articles as outrageous, and opposed his conclusions. Many of these admissions are recorded in the chapter entitled, "Critics and Corroboration," which supplies ample confirmation of his main contentions. To quote only one important piece of corroborative evidence, taken from an official report of the United States Government (Bulletin 38 of U.S. Department of Labour, Jan., 1902):—

"In a great many (Mexican) States where tropical products are raised the native residents are employed under a contract which is compulsory on their part, owing to their being in debt to the planter. . . . The system of enforced labour is carried out to its logical sequence in the Sisal-grass plantations of Yucatan. . . . The system of labour enforced by indebtedness seems to work in Yucatan to the satisfaction of the planter. The peon is compelled to work unless he is able to pay off his constantly-increasing debt, and any attempt at flight or evasion is followed by penal retribution. The peon rarely, if ever, achieves independence, and a transference of a workman from one employer to another is only effected by means of the new employer paying to the former one the amount of the debt contracted. The system thus resembles slavery, not only in the compulsion under which the peon works, but in the large initial expense required of the planter when making his first investment in labour." (Page 211.)

Mr. Turner does not hesitate to hold the Government responsible for the deplorable economic condition of Mexico, which is a rich country, and ought to contain a prosperous people. The Government is a Republic only in name; in reality it is a military autocracy. Following the democratic movement some forty years ago, which freed the slave in fact as well as name, came General Diaz. He writes:—

"It was under Porfirio Diaz that slavery and peonage were re-established in Mexico, and on a more merciless basis than they had rested upon even under the Spanish dons. Therefore, I can see no injustice in charging at any rate the largest share of the blame for these conditions upon the system of Diaz. . . . Diaz is the main prop of the slavery; but there are other props, without which the system could not continue upright for a single day." (Page 121.)

That unscrupulous system of concessions, "graft," plunder, and merciless repression is at the root of the peonage and slavery of the helpless poor. Mr. Turner devotes considerable space to an examination of President Diaz' character and of the glamour which surrounds the name of the successful autocrat, and reaches a conclusion very unfavourable to him both in his public and private life. And Mr. Turner holds that the American Government, by its support of the President and by making itself an indispensable factor in his continuation in power, is "a partner in

the slavery of Mexico"; the "nine hundred million dollars of American capital form a conclusive argument against any criticism of Diaz," and are "an overwhelming defence of Mexican slavery." The Yaqui War was stirred up and the Yaquis exiled in order to get their rich lands to sell to American capitalists. American planters, too, employ slave labour. Said a well-known American planter of Mexico city to the author :—

"When we needed a lot of *enganchados*, all we had to do was to wire to one of the numerous *enganchadores* in Mexico, saying, 'We want so many men and so many women on such and such a day.' Sometimes we'd call for three or four hundred, but the *enganchadores* would never fail to deliver the full number on the dot. We paid 50 pesos apiece for them, rejecting those that didn't look good to us, and that was all there was to it. We always kept them as long as they lasted. . . .

"Yes. I remember a lot of three hundred *enganchados* we received one spring. *In less than three months we buried more than half of them.*" (Page 221.)

England, too, is far from being without responsibility, for she is interested in Mexico to the extent of 750,000,000 dollars invested in that country.

How long will the awful state of things revealed in this book be allowed to continue? That there should be a revolution in Mexico is not to be wondered at; the wonder rather is that the people have been so successfully ground down by the iron tyranny that they have not long ago risen in revolt. We can but hope that the change in government, following on the downfall of President Diaz, will make the disappearance of this intolerable and cruel system more possible than it has hitherto been.



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THE EAST is now ranging itself with the West. For the first time in human history, therefore, there is a clear prospect of one common ideal animating all peoples, and thus the old hope of the brotherhood of nations and races is at last moving appreciably towards realisation. What better means of celebrating the birth of the new era, of brushing aside prejudices and suspicions, of correcting misunderstandings, than by men and women from East and West, North and South, meeting as friends and equals in a great Congress?

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Among the supporters—very many of whom have welcomed with enthusiasm the idea of holding such a Congress—are over thirty Presidents of Parliament, the majority of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and of the Delegates to the Second Hague Conference, twelve Colonial Governors and eight Colonial Prime Ministers, over forty Colonial Bishops, some one-hundred-and-thirty Professors of International Law, the leading Anthropologists and Sociologists, and the Officers and the majority of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The OBJECT OF THE CONGRESS is to discuss, in the light of science and the modern conscience, the general relations subsisting between these various races, with a view to encouraging between them a fuller understanding, the most friendly feelings, and a heartier co-operation. Political issues of the hour will be subordinated to this comprehensive end, in the firm belief that when once mutual respect is established, difficulties of every type will be sympathetically approached and readily solved.

The following is the Programme for the eight half-day Sessions :

1. Fundamental Considerations. 2-3. General Conditions of Progress.
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Among the British writers of papers are Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., Governor of Jamaica; Sir Charles Bruce, G.C.M.G., late Governor of Mauritius; Sir John Macdonell, Master of the Supreme Court; Sir Harry Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.; (the late) Sir Charles Dilke; J. M. Robertson, M.P.; John A. Hobson, M.A.; Israel Zangwill; and Professors D. S. Margoliouth, D.LITT., T. W. Rhys Davids, LL.D., Ph.D., Charles S. Myers, M.D., Sc.D., Lionel W. Lyde, M.A.,

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One of the principal attractions of the Congress will be the Exhibition of photographs of notable representatives of practically every people on earth, as well as the series of about twenty pictures of heads, specially painted from life for the Congress by Mr. Norman Hardy, illustrating the skin colour and type of the chief races of the world.

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